

Service Area Plan

Department of Health

Financial Assistance for Non Profit Emergency Medical Services Organizations and Localities (40203)

Service Area Background Information

Service Area Description

This service area includes Rescue Squad Assistance Fund Grants, Financial Assistance to Localities to support Non Profit EMS agencies, and funding provided to support the Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads (VAVRS). These items support the effective integration of personnel, transportation, communications, facilities, and education and training into a unified system that provides quality emergency medical care, thereby decreasing morbidity, mortality, and hospitalization. A comprehensive statewide system of emergency medical care offers an incentive for business and industry considering locating in the State.

Service Area Alignment to Mission

This service area directly aligns with the Virginia Department of Health's mission of promoting and protecting the health of Virginians by reducing death and disability resulting from sudden or serious injury and illness in the Commonwealth. This is accomplished through funding support to non profit EMS agencies and localities in the development of a comprehensive, coordinated statewide emergency medical services (EMS) system to provide the highest quality emergency medical care possible to those in need.

Service Area Statutory Authority

The Office of EMS is mandated by Virginia Code § 32.1-111.3 to coordinate a Statewide emergency medical care system. This section of the Code identifies 17 specific objectives that must be addressed.

- § 32.1-111.12 establishes the Virginia Rescue Squad Assistance Fund. The majority of this service area consists of funding provided through this grant process. These funds assist and support eligible EMS agencies in securing training, equipment and supplies.
- § 32.1-111.12:01 establishes a committee, appointed by the State Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Advisory Board, to review and make recommendations for funding.
- § 46.2-694 provides that the EMS system is to be funded through a \$4 surcharge on motor vehicle registration fees that is earmarked for EMS, commonly referred to as "Four for Life". This section establishes a funding formula for the distribution of funds and specifies the purpose and use of funds. These funds also support VAVRS in providing training to eligible EMS agencies and personnel.

Service Area Customer Base

Customer(s)	Served	Potential
Citizens of the Commonwealth	7,400,000	7,488,800
EMS agencies (non profit & municipal agencies eligible for funding support)	706	713
EMS providers	33,000	33,330
Localities	135	135
Virginia Assoc. of Volunteer Rescue Squads	1	1

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Anticipated Changes In Service Area Customer Base

- The establishment of Emergency Medical Service agencies is dynamic and dependent upon the consent of local governments. Some local governments are increasingly encouraging the establishment of EMS agencies in their communities by developing and funding government combination agencies that are staffed by local government employees during the day and by community volunteers at night. This effort is increasing in rural areas as the availability of volunteers becomes more limited. It is anticipated that the number of agencies staffed by governmental employees and volunteers will increase by nearly 10 percent in the next two years.
- The demand for EMS providers will continue to grow to meet the estimated 12 percent state population growth through 2010. The pool of 16-34 year old volunteers is decreasing and there is a decreasing trend in people volunteering due to other constraints and commitments. EMS agencies, particularly volunteer agencies with higher turnover, will need to continue to develop new leaders who are competent to manage a changing and challenging environment and the complex issues of managing an EMS agency. Volunteers will be more dependent on career support for answering calls and managing the day-to-day operations. With the changing demographics of Virginia, leaders will need to be trained in dealing with a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds and issues. The Office of EMS will experience an increase in demand for technical assistance services and funding related to recruitment and retention of EMS personnel.

Service Area Products and Services

- Financial Assistance to Localities for Non Profit EMS agencies provides non-supplanting funds to support training, equipment and supplies to eligible non profit EMS agencies and organizations within their jurisdiction. Annually, funds are transferred to the locality based upon the fees collected within that jurisdiction. The locality's comptroller must report on the use of these funds.
- Rescue Squad Assistance Fund grants support training and equipment to eligible non profit EMS agencies and organizations. The grant application process and award criteria are established in regulations with two distinct grant cycles each year.
- VAVRS funding is to be used solely for the purpose of recruitment, retention and training activities for volunteer EMS personnel and agencies. Funding is provided through quarterly payments, and § 32.1-111.13 requires VAVRS to submit an annual financial report on the use of its funds to the State EMS Advisory Board.

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Factors Impacting Service Area Products and Services

FOUR FOR LIFE FUNDING

- In Fiscal Year 2002, funding under this program increased from \$2 per vehicle registration to \$4 per vehicle registration to support EMS.
- The FY2002 – FY2004 Biennium Budget retained the increase in funds to support other Commonwealth general funded initiatives.
- In Fiscal Year 2005, the additional funding under this program was partially distributed for EMS purposes; however \$3.45 million was retained in the general fund for other purposes, and \$1.04 million was set aside to support the Virginia State Police Air medevac mission.

Legislation enacted by the 2004 General Assembly charged the methodology for distributing the Four for Life Fund. However, these changes will take effect only when all Four for Life revenues are distributed. For EMS purposes, as specified in § 46.2-694, the revised distribution methodology is as follows:

32% Rescue Squad Assistance Fund grants

26% Return to Localities

2% Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads

30% VDH for:

- EMS training programs
- Advanced life support training programs
- Recruitment & Retention of volunteer EMS personnel
- System development, communications and emergency preparedness and response
- Regional EMS Councils

10% VDH Office of EMS for use in emergency medical services

- Current distribution remains based upon Two for Life program

13.5% EMS & ALS Training and Recruitment & Retention

31.75% Rescue Squad Assistance Fund grants

25% Return to Localities

2.5% Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads

27.25% Planning and Development

Anticipated Changes To Service Area Products and Services

Change in the RSAF regulations to allow for the funding of new or innovative projects through the RSAF grant program:

- To meet statewide critical needs especially in EMS training, communications equipment and programs; computers, emergency management, retention of EMS providers
- To meet the 17 objectives identified in § 32.1-111.13 of the Code.

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Service Area Financial Summary

The Code of Virginia, § 46.2-694, provides that the EMS system is to be funded through a \$4 surcharge on motor vehicle registration fees that is earmarked for EMS, commonly referred to as “Four for Life”. This section establishes a funding formula for the distribution of funds and specifies the purpose and use of funds. The current funding distribution for this service area is:

- 31.75% Rescue Squad Assistance Fund grants
- 25% Return to Localities
- 2.5% Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads

The remaining 40.75% is allocated to the VDH Office of EMS for various purposes intended to develop and maintain a statewide coordinated EMS system.

	<u>Fiscal Year 2007</u>		<u>Fiscal Year 2008</u>	
	General Fund	Nongeneral Fund	General Fund	Nongeneral Fund
Base Budget	\$0	\$19,496,708	\$0	\$19,496,708
Changes To Base	\$1,884,877	\$1,779,223	\$1,884,877	\$3,504,223
SERVICE AREA TOTAL	\$1,884,877	\$21,275,931	\$1,884,877	\$23,000,931

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Service Area Objectives, Measures, and Strategies

Objective 40203.01

Provide Financial Assistance for Emergency Medical Services

The Commonwealth provides direct financial assistance for emergency medical services through a \$4 surcharge on motor vehicle registration. These funds are to support the provision of training and education of EMS personnel, the purchase of EMS equipment and supplies, and to support local government EMS operations.

This Objective Supports the Following Agency Goals:

- Provide strong leadership and operational support for Virginia's public health system.
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- Collaborate with partners in the health care and human services system to assure access to quality health care and human services.
()
- Promote systems, policies and practices that facilitate improved health for all Virginians.
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- Respond in a timely manner to any emergency impacting public health through preparation, collaboration, education and rapid intervention.
(This objective is also aligned with Virginia's long term objective to protect the public's safety and security, ensuring a fair and effective system of justice and providing a prepared response to emergencies and disasters of all kinds.)

This Objective Has The Following Measure(s):

- **Measure 40203.01.01**

Financial Assistance Provided for Emergency Medical Services in Compliance with Statutory Requirements

Measure Type: Input

Measure Frequency: Annually

Measure Baseline: FY06: Return to Localities is 25%, VAVRS is 2.5% and RSAF is 31.75%

Measure Target: 100% award and obligation of RSAF funds and 100% distribution and expenditure of funds designated for localities and VAVRS during FY07.

Measure Source and Calculation:

Return to Locality funds are based upon the registration of motor vehicles within a given locality. A percentage, as defined in Code, is then distributed back to the locality. VAVRS funding is as defined in Code and is distributed quarterly. The measure for RSAF is calculated based upon the amount of funding available as defined in Code. Grants are awarded based upon criteria established in regulations.

Objective 40203.01 Has the Following Strategies:

- Develop and monitor regional and state priorities for funding of EMS programs and services through effective use of RSAF Program.
- Coordinate and conduct biannual RSAF grant awards.
- Provide technical assistance and monitoring of Return to Locality funds.
- Provide technical assistance to VAVRS in use of funds and review of annual financial report as required in Code.

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